WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

communication means, for exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

display control means, for arranging said image processing apparatuses and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein said display control means assigns ranks for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and displays said corresponding device data.

2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means arranges said image processing apparatuses in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display control means uses a graph to display said device data.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on said condition selected by said condition selection means.

5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed by said display control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said device data are capacity data for said image processing apparatus.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the physical distance separating said information processing apparatus and each of said

image processing apparatuses.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the printing speed of each of said image processing apparatuses.

9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the reliability of each of said image processing apparatuses.

10. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the number of paper jams that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

11. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the number of errors that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

12. An information processing apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the printing cost incurred when using each of said image processing apparatuses.

13. An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said printing cost is the cost per sheet output by each of said image processing apparatuses.

14. An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said printing cost is an initial cost or an operating cost for each of said image processing apparatuses.

15. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on either the sales time, the purchase time, the rental time, the use start time, the scheduled use end time, or available for use times for each of said image processing apparatuses.

16. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on either the replacement time, the

use start time, the service life, or the next replacement time for consumable goods for each of said image processing apparatuses.

17. An information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

communication means, for exchanging with said image processing apparatuses device data for said image processing apparatuses; and

display control means, for arranging said image processing apparatuses and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein said display control means displays device data for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

18. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

19. An information processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected by said condition selection means.

20. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed by said display control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

21. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said device data are data reflecting the capacities of said image processing apparatus.

22. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the physical distance separating said image processing apparatus and said information processing apparatus does not exceed a reference range.

23. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus having a printing status of ready.

24. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus that has a facsimile function.

25. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus that has a scanner function.

26. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus that has a finisher function.

27. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the evaluated reliability is not less than that represented by the lower limit of a reference range.

28. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of paper jams does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

29. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of the errors does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

30. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, based on whether double-sided or single-sided printing is enabled, or on an available paper size or an available recording sheet that is to be handled, said display control means displays only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition.

31. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, based on one determining factor, the direction, the thickness, the color or the material of a recording sheet, said display control means displays only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition.

32. A network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

communication means, for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

storage means, for storing said device data obtained with said communication means;

transmission means, for, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

request means, for issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

display control means, for, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, to display said device data, said display control means assigns ranks for said image processing

apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

33. A network system according to claim 32, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means arranges said image processing apparatuses in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

34. A network system according to claim 32, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on said condition selected by said condition selection means.

35. A network system according to claim 32, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed by said display control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

36. A network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

communication means, for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

storage means, for storing said device data obtained with said communication means;

transmission means, for, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing means to said second information processing means of said device data stored in said storage means;

request means, for the issuing to said first information processing apparatus of a request by said second information processing apparatus for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

display control means, for, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein said display control means displays device data for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

37. A network system according to claim 36, wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

38. A network system according to claim 37, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected by said condition selection means.

39. A network system according to claim 36, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed by said display control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

40. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and said corresponding device data are displayed.

41. An information processing method according to claim 40, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

42. An information processing method according to claim 40, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

43. An information processing method according to

claim 40, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

44. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging with said image processing apparatuses device data for said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

45. An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a

user.

46. An information processing method according to claim 45, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

47. An information processing method according to claim 44, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

48. An information processing method, for a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

49. An information processing method according to claim 48, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in

the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

50. An information processing method according to claim 48, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

51. An information processing method according to claim 48, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

52. An information processing method, for a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain

device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

53. An information processing method according to claim 52, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a

user.

54. An information processing method according to claim 53, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

55. An information processing method according to claim 52, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

56. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning

said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and said corresponding device data are displayed.

57. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

58. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, a graph is used to display said device data.

59. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition

selection step.

60. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

61. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein said device data are capacity data for said image processing apparatus.

62. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the physical distance separating said information processing apparatus and each of said image processing apparatuses.

63. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing speed of

each of said image processing apparatuses.

64. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the reliability of each of said image processing apparatuses.

65. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the number of paper jams that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

66. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the number of errors that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

67. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing cost incurred when using each of said image processing

apparatuses.

68. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 67, wherein said printing cost is the cost per sheet output by each of said image processing apparatuses.

69. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 67, wherein said printing cost is an initial cost or an operating cost for each of said image processing apparatuses.

70. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on either the sales time, the purchase time, the rental time, the use start time, the scheduled use end time, or available for use times for each of said image processing apparatuses.

71. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on either the replacement time, the use start time, the service life, or the next replacement time for consumable goods for each of said image processing apparatuses.

72. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, said information processing program comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

73. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

74. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 73, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed

only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

75. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

76. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein said device data are data reflecting the capacities of said image processing apparatus.

77. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the physical distance separating said image processing apparatus and said information processing apparatus does not exceed a reference range.

78. A computer-readable memory medium according

to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus having a printing status of ready.

79. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a facsimile function.

80. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a scanner function.

81. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a finisher function.

82. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the evaluated reliability is not less than that represented by the lower limit of a reference range.

83. A computer-readable memory medium according

to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of paper jams does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

84. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of the errors does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

85. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on whether double-sided or single-sided printing is enabled, or on an available paper size or an available recording sheet that is to be handled.

86. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on one determining factor, the direction, the thickness, the color or the material of a recording sheet.

87. A computer-readable memory medium which

stores an information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, said information processing program comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, to display

said device data, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

88. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

89. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

90. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus

selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

91. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, said information processing program comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information

processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

92. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 91, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

93. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 92, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

94. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 91, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said

display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

95. An information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and said corresponding device data are displayed.

96. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

97. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, a graph is used to display said device data.

98. An information processing program according to claim 95, further comprising a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

99. An information processing program according to claim 95, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

100. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein said device data are capacity data for said image processing apparatus.

101. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to

display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the physical distance separating said information processing apparatus and each of said image processing apparatuses.

102. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing speed of each of said image processing apparatuses.

103. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the reliability of each of said image processing apparatuses.

104. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the number of paper jams that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

105. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing

apparatuses are ranked based on the number of errors that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

106. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing cost incurred when using each of said image processing apparatuses.

107. An information processing program according to claim 106, wherein said printing cost is the cost per sheet output by each of said image processing apparatuses.

108. An information processing program according to claim 106, wherein said printing cost is an initial cost or an operating cost for each of said image processing apparatuses.

109. An information processing program according to claim 106, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on either the sales time, the purchase time, the rental time, the use start time, the scheduled use end time, or available for use times

for each of said image processing apparatuses.

110. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on either the replacement time, the use start time, the service life, or the next replacement time for consumable goods for each of said image processing apparatuses.

111. An information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

112. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing

apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

113. An information processing program according to claim 112, further comprising a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

114. An information processing program according to claim 111, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

115. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein said device data are data reflecting the capacities of said image processing apparatus.

116. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,

device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the physical distance separating said image processing apparatus and said information processing apparatus does not exceed a reference range.

117. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus having a printing status of ready.

118. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a facsimile function.

119. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a scanner function.

120. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a finisher function.

121. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,

device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the evaluated reliability is not less than that represented by the lower limit of a reference range.

122. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of paper jams does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

123. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of the errors does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

124. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on whether double-sided or single-sided printing is enabled, or on an available paper size or an available recording sheet that is to be handled.

125. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,

only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on one determining factor, the direction, the thickness, the color or the material of a recording sheet.

126. An information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information

processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

127. An information processing program according to claim 126, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

128. An information processing program according to claim 126, further comprising a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

129. An information processing program according to claim 126, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing

apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

130. An information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device

data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

131. An information processing program according to claim 130, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

132. An information processing program according to claim 131, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

133. An information processing program according to claim 130, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing

apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.